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## 22. GUT CONTENTS OF A MUGGER *CROCODYLUS PALUSTRIS*

The mugger *Crocodylus palustris* is widely distributed in India. A number of workers reported that muggers mostly feed on fish, aquatic beetles, bugs, molluscs, frogs, water snakes, birds, pig, goat and occasionally on human and vegetable matter (Abdulali 1938, D'Abreu 1915, Krishnamurthy 1951, McCann 1935, Simox 1905). We report here on the gut contents of a mugger which escaped from a semi-captive condition at Vanvihar near Dholpur, Rajasthan and died after one year under mysterious circumstances in the Urmila Sagar lake, 3 km from Vanvihar.

On 6 July 1988 we were asked by the officials of the Rajasthan State Forest Department at Dholpur to examine a dead mugger. We found the dead mugger floating in the lake. The total length of the animal was 2.66 m. The right side of the snout was broken, by which it was identified as originating from Vanvihar. The mugger was badly decomposed

by the time we saw it. No external injury was evident. The internal organs were decomposed but we found bones, pieces of carapace and the lower jaw of a softshell turtle, in its alimentary canal. The turtle was indentified as a pond turtle *Lissemys punctata*. The size of the turtle (carapace length) was calculated to be about 20 cm from the carapace pieces. Other gut contents removed from the body were broken portions of water beetle, crab, a few small stones and pieces of aquatic vegetation.

Water bodies in and around Dholpur city have large populations of pond turtles. They become active during monsoon after their long aestivation and during this period they are easy prey to the mugger.

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## 23. UNUSUAL NESTING SITE OF MUGGER *CROCODYLUS PALUSTRIS* IN MADHAV NATIONAL PARK

Sakhya Sagar Lake (25° 26' N, 77° 42' E) is situated in the central zone of Madhav National Park (24° 55' - 25° 55' N and 77° 15' - 78° 30' E) in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh. From the main gate of the central zone, a road runs on the elevated land along the southern bank of Sakhya Sagar, for about 200 m up to

the sailing Club House inside the national park.

In January and February 1991, many holes were dug for tree plantation along this road. The diameter and the depth of each hole were 60 cm. On 15 June 1991, the forest staff saw a crow feeding on some eggs on the road. On investigation, 31 eggs of the